United Nations S/2002/1171

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 October 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 18 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda calls upon the Security Council to exert its influence on the Government of President Kabila to cease the violation of the Lusaka Agreement and the Pretoria process on the morrow of the total withdrawal of the Rwanda Defence Forces which took place on 5 October 2002, as monitored by MONUC, JMC and foreign diplomats.

First, the Government of Kinshasa and their allies Mai-Mai, ex-FAR and Interahamwe militia as well as FDD attacked RCD-Goma and the war is still going on around the town of Bukavu in the province of South Kivu. It was the Government of Kinshasa which made a joint attack with the ex-FAR, Interahamwe, Mai-Mai and FDD on the town of Uvira, with 10 boats mounted with Katyusha artillery guns. This attack took place a few days after President Joseph Kabila presided over a meeting in Lubumbashi in Katanga province, which was attended by the Commander of ex-FAR and militia Interahamwe, General Ntiwiragabo.

The Security Council must know that there is a joint command and structure of FAC, ex-FAR, FDD and the militia Mai-Mai and Interahamwe. It is well known that General Lukole, the senior officer of the Kinshasa Government forces, is the chief coordinator of operations taking place in Uvira and around Bukavu.

Immediately after the capture of Uvira, the town was handed over to the Mai-Mai which raised the flag of the Kinshasa regime. In their address to the population of Uvira, they promised the appointment of a mayor and a governor by the Government of Kinshasa. After Uvira, ex-FAR and FDD went to cut off the road to Bujumbura and the road to Bukavu.

The Government of Rwanda is shocked by the behaviour of President Kabila who armed and dispatched more than 1,100 ex-FAR soldiers who were in Kamina barracks to reinforce the fighting in eastern Congo, more specifically around Bukavu town. He did this after allowing only 120 ex-combatants in Kamina to regain Rwanda and now the remaining 400 are only children and women.

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda does not understand the position of the Security Council and its silence from our first withdrawal on 17 September up to the total withdrawal on 5 October 2002. This is clearly a conspiracy of silence which supports President Kabila and his allies in violating the Peace Agreements. For the consequences emanating from this deteriorating situation, the Government of Kinshasa and its allies are responsible.

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We should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the United Nations Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Anastase **Gasana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative